

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR WORK MEETING
JUNE 11, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, in the Senior High School Auditorium as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Daniel Santia, Board President.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Santia. Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

Anitre' Bell (participated via Zoom)
Carla Buxton
Anissa Klessner
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Dan Caton
Victoria Gill

Also present were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Rob Kartychak, Edward Katkich, Korri Kane, and Donna Steff, principals; Dr. Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

An Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel. This announcement is being made to be in compliance with Act 84 of 1986, Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law, as amended.

MOTION #1

By Lindsey Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve the agenda as written. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dan Engen and Jackie Cowan from DRAW Collective gave a summary of the process leading up to tonight's final option recommendations. Based on discussions with key stakeholders, four recommendations were presented to the Board and community. Those options include:

A2 Shift 7-8 grades to the High School. Renovate and add to Margaret Ross to convert to K-6 facility at a cost of \$105,600,000.

A3 Shift 7-8 to the High School. Construct new K-6 facility at a cost of \$112,600,000.

- E1 Additions and alterations to the High School for grades 7-8. Construct new 2-6 facility. Grades K-1 would remain at Margaret Ross and Independence Elementary Schools at a cost of \$99,500,000.
- E2 Additions and alterations to the High School for Grades 7-8. Construct new 3-6 facility. Grades K-2 would remain at Margaret Ross and Independence Elementary Schools at a cost of \$89,800,000.

Based on community feedback, Option A3 was the preferred option based on projections that the cost differences between A2 and A3 are minimal; efficiency of only two buildings; and a new build that will support changing educational needs. Mr. Engen stated that both Options A2 and A3 begin to meet District goals of reducing facilities, the flexibility of which project comes first and the ability to consolidate bus runs.

Several members of the audience asked Mr. Engen questions relating to the project. Don Skinner asked the potential repercussions for ongoing long-term projects if the Board composition were to change following the upcoming elections. Mr. Engen said that that can be a challenge, but establishing a strong transition plan and comprehensive documentation and transparency is the best way to adequately inform new members of the commitments made by previous boards.

Tom Armour asked if keeping Independence Elementary School was completely out of the picture. Mr. Engen said that it was not based on Options E1 and E2, but that they weren't optimal choices. Mr. Armour expressed that the District must be willing to involve companies that are willing to cut costs. Mr. Engen explained that the project would be required to go through the bidding process as required by the Commonwealth. Mr. Armour asked if there would be penalties for contractors missing deadlines. Mr. Engen said that there would be.

A gentleman asked how the District would fund the project. Mr. Engen explained that for projects such as this, school districts can issue General Obligation Bonds, which are repaid via property taxes. This gentleman asked if there is any way to estimate the tax increase. Mr. Engen said that the Business Administrator would be able to provide that information.

At this time, Dr. Beltz reviewed items that would be voted on later in the meeting.

Finance and Budget: Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Three-year agreement with Airport Fire FX to provide fire extinguisher services for all school buildings and the bus garage, costs are attached.

Senior High School	\$2,069.28
Junior High School	\$1,463.23
Hopewell Elementary School	\$504.79
Independence Elementary School	\$762.29
Margaret Ross Elementary School	\$643.84
Maintenance Building	\$52.43

2. Three-year agreement with Penn Power Systems to provide regular scheduled maintenance and inspection services (scope of work attached). Yearly costs are as follows:

2024-2025	\$4,476.51
2025-2026	\$4,610.81
2026-2027	\$4,749.12

3. One-year agreement with Rochester Midland Corporation (RMC) to provide water loop testing at all school buildings twice per year. The cost for 2024-2025 is \$4,115.28.

4. Three-year agreement with Combustion Service & Equipment Co. (CS&E) for maintenance and inspection of boiler systems (a list of covered equipment is attached). Annual cost is \$6,750.

5. Three-year agreement with Keystone Water Systems to provide water treatment testing at Independence Elementary School. Yearly costs are as follows:

2024-2025	\$12,720 plus sampling costs of \$2,750
2025-2026	\$15,120 plus sampling costs of \$360
2026-2027	\$15,120 plus sampling costs of \$60

6. One-year agreement with Hadfield Elevator LLC for quarterly elevator service at a cost of \$2,400.

7. One-year agreement with Ehrlich for monthly pest management maintenance services. Costs are as follows:

Bus Garage	\$600
Hopewell Elementary	\$1,200
Independence Elementary	\$1,200
Margaret Ross Elementary	\$1,200
Junior High School	\$1,800
Senior High School	\$1,800

8. Three-year contract with Fedora Intertech for monitoring of fire and security alarm panels at 5 school buildings and bus garage. Yearly costs for all 3 years are \$12,668.40. There is a one-time set up fee of \$3,571.36 for the 2024-2025 school year.

9. Three-year contract with Maffei Strayer Furnishing, Inc. for High School and Junior High School gym bleacher inspections. Cost is \$2,900.00 per year for 3-years.

10. Three -year contract with Intertek PSI for water quality lead screening at a cost of \$1,425 per year for 3-years.
11. Three-year contract with Mongiovi & Son Enterprises, Inc. for sprinkler inspections. Yearly costs are as follows:

2024-2025	\$2,250 (\$450/building)
2025-2026	\$2,500 (\$500/building)
2026-2027	\$2,700 (\$550/building)
12. Three-year contract with Renick Brothers for preventative maintenance, inspection schedule is attached. Yearly costs are as follows:

2024-2025	\$12,480
2025-2026	\$12,480
2026-2027	\$13,240
13. One-year contract with FIT Optimized Solutions of maintenance services at a cost of \$11,500.

Personnel: Mrs. Pistorius, Chair; Mrs. Buxton, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Employment of the following grade 7-12 teachers for credit recovery to be compensated at a rate of pay of \$150.00 per student:
 - a. English 7-12: Rosetta Dufalla
 - b. Math 7-12: Raymon Smith
 - c. Social Studies 7-12: Martin Vallecorsa
 - d. General Science and Introduction to Scientific Methods 7-12: Michael Gill
 - e. Biology: Betsy Lehman
 - f. Chemistry: Bronwyn Korchnak
 - g. Physics: Dean Nelson
 - h. Physical Education 7-12: Lisa Morell
 - i. BCIT 7-12: Stephanie Valentine
2. Resignation for retirement of Linda Cecela, Kindergarten teacher at Independence Elementary School, effective May 31, 2024.
3. Resignation of Kelly Waibel, Junior Varsity Cheerleading sponsor, effective May 31, 2024. Mrs. Waibel has accepted the Head Varsity Cheerleading position.
4. Employment of Angela Markowitz, Health Suite Assistant at Margaret Ross Elementary School, effective June 12, 2024.

5. Employment of Stephen Slate, summer custodial staff, effective June 12, 2024, pending receipt of all clearances.
6. Employment of Kandy Helms, summer custodial staff, effective June 12, 2024, pending receipt of all clearances.

Policy/Planning: Anissa Klessner, Chair; Anitre Bell, Co-chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. District procedures for right to know requests are now updated and amended to include that all requests must comply with the Open Records Law to be filed by a “person that is a legal resident of the United States”.

Further, it is directed that an announcement of the amendment be conspicuously posted on the District website.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the June 25, 2024 Business meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chair

1. Margaret McConnell, a student at PennWest University, to complete her school counseling practicum hours at the Junior High School during the 2024-2025 school year, under the direction of Nicole Rodgers.
2. Renewal of PA-Educator, the District’s clearinghouse for professional applications, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$2,175.00.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Caton, Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

1. Request of Hopewell Youth Wrestling to use Gym B at the Junior High School on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning November 12, 2024 through March 31, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
2. Request of Hopewell Youth Wrestling to use the mat room at the Junior High School on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning November 12, 2024 through March 31, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
3. Request of Hopewell Youth Wrestling to use Gym B at the Junior High School, July 1-3, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for a youth wrestling camp.
4. San Rocco band to use the Senior High School band room for rehearsal on July 24, 25 and 31 and August 1, 6 and 7, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

Finance and Budget: Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

1. Resolution #1-2024 a Resolution providing for adoption of the Final General Fund budget for the 2024-2025 General Fund budget, which projects revenues of \$ and appropriations of \$. **(Roll Call)**
2. Resolution #2-2024, a Resolution levying a tax during the 2024-2025 School Fiscal Year upon real estate within the territorial limits of the School District and fixing the rate thereof at ____ mills. **(Roll Call)**
3. Resolution #3-2024, a Resolution requesting the Chief County Assessor to direct the inspection and reassessment of all taxable property within the territorial limits of the School District to which major improvements were made after September 1, 2023, and not included in the tax duplicate certified to the Treasurer of the School District for the School Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025. **(Roll Call)**
4. Resolution #4-2024, a Resolution authorizing rates of discounts and penalties on real estate taxes for the 2024-2025 School Fiscal Year. **(Roll Call)**
5. Resolution #5-2024, a Resolution providing for the installment payment of real estate taxes during the School Fiscal Year 2024-2025. **(Roll Call)**
6. Resolution #6-2024, a Resolution reenacting for the 2024-2025 School Fiscal Year the tax upon transfers of real estate situated within the territorial limits of the School District, the same heretofore imposed pursuant to the authority contained in the Local Tax Enabling Act. **(Roll Call)**
7. Resolution #7-2024, a Resolution reenacting for the 2025 Calendar Year the tax upon salaries, wages, commissions, compensations, net profits, and other earned income of residents, the same heretofore imposed pursuant to the authority contained in the Local Tax Enabling Act. **(Roll Call)**
8. Resolution #8-2024, a Resolution reenacting for the 2024-2025 School Fiscal Year the tax upon natural persons engaging in an occupation within the territorial limits of the School District, the same heretofore imposed pursuant to the authority contained in the Local Tax Enabling Act. **(Roll Call)**
9. Resolution #9-2024, a Resolution reenacting for the 2024-2025 School Fiscal Year the mercantile tax upon the gross receipts of wholesale and retail business activity performed or rendered within the territorial limits of the School District, the same heretofore imposed pursuant to the authority contained in the Local Tax Enabling Act. **(Roll Call)**
10. Resolution #10-2024, a Resolution authorizing the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion real estate assessment reductions for the Hopewell Area School District's Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, under the provisions of the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006). **(Roll Call)**

11. Renew the following insurance coverage through Utica Insurance Company and UPMC (for worker's compensation) for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. This coverage will be provided through EHD Insurance Agency.
 - i. Privacy and Network Liability \$
 - ii. General Liability/Excess Liability \$
 - iii. Automobile \$
 - iv. Workers Compensation \$
12. Removal of the old boiler from Margaret Ross (currently at the junior high school). All usable parts will be removed before scrapping the equipment.
13. One-year contract with CSIU for the following:

Fund accounting	\$
Payroll	\$
Human resources	\$
Student Information Systems (SIS Online Registration)	\$

Personnel: Mrs. Pistorius, Chair; Mrs. Buxton, Co-Chair

1. Official Pay Schedule for the 2024-2025 athletic season.
2. Resignation of Brenna Wandel, 8th Grade Club Sponsor, effective May 31, 2024.
3. Resignation of Ray Smith and Dean Nelson, Senior High School Student Council Sponsors, effective May 31, 2024.
4. Resignation of Paula Battisti, 7th Grade Club Sponsor, effective May 31, 2024.
5. Fall coaches and salaries for the 2024-2025 school year. (**Attachment**)

Transportation: Ms. Bell, Chair; Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Sell for scrap the following obsolete vans and buses. (**Attachment**)

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Effective October 12, 2021, a maximum of thirty minutes total will be reserved during the Board meeting for community members who request to speak. At any time the Board may allow additional time for the visitors portion of the Board meeting.

Whether the community member is participating virtually, or in-person, the community member will:

- State their name
- Have up to three minutes to make a statement and/or ask a question to the Board
- Only be able to speak once during the visitors portion of the board meeting
- Have their time begin when the individual begins to speak

It is recommended that community members wishing to speak during the visitors portion email the Board Secretary prior to the board meeting, however the online chat will be monitored during the visitors portion of the meeting for anyone wishing to speak.

A response may be given during the meeting, however, it is also possible that no response be provided during the Board meeting. The Board will instruct the Superintendent, the Business Administrator and/or the Solicitor to either respond to the inquiry or do further research and report back to the Board and/or the resident. For any question that requires a response, the District will contact the individual directly to respond or will share responses at the following Board meeting.

Tom Armour

Mr. Armour asked if the turf had been swept. Dr. Beltz responded that he didn't know the answer to that, but that he would find out. He did report that requirements have changed somewhat with respect to this issue. Mr. Armour also asked if a girls soccer coach had been named. He was told that coaches would be approved later in the month.

At this time, Mr. Santia returned to Finance and Budget

Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic

MOTION #2

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the three-year agreement with Airport Fire FX to provide fire extinguisher services for all school buildings and the bus garage, costs are attached. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Senior High School	\$2,069.28
Junior High School	\$1,463.23
Hopewell Elementary School	\$504.79
Independence Elementary School	\$762.29
Margaret Ross Elementary School	\$643.84
Maintenance Building	\$52.43

MOTION #3

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the three-year agreement with Penn Power Systems to provide regular scheduled maintenance and inspection services (scope of work attached). Yearly costs are as follows. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

2024-2025	\$4,476.51
2025-2026	\$4,610.81
2026-2027	\$4,749.12

MOTION #4

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the one-year agreement with Rochester Midland Corporation (RMC) to provide water loop testing at all school buildings twice per year. The cost for 2024-2025 is \$4,115.28. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the three-year agreement with Combustion Service & Equipment Co. (CS&E) for maintenance and inspection of boiler systems (a list of covered equipment is attached). Annual cost is \$6,750. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the three-year agreement with Keystone Water Systems to provide water treatment testing at Independence Elementary School. Yearly costs are as follows. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

2024-2025	\$12,720 plus sampling costs of \$2,750
2025/2026	\$15,120 plus sampling costs of \$360
2026/2027	\$15,120 plus sampling costs of \$60

MOTION #7

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the one-year agreement with Hadfield Elevator LLC for quarterly elevator service at a cost of \$2,400. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the one-year agreement with Ehrlich for monthly pest management maintenance services. Costs are as follows. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Bus Garage	\$600
Hopewell Elementary	\$1,200
Independence Elementary	\$1,200
Margaret Ross Elementary	\$1,200
Junior High School	\$1,800
Senior High School	\$1,800

MOTION #9

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the three-year contract with Fedora Intertech for monitoring of fire and security alarm panels at 5 school buildings and bus garage. Yearly costs for all 3 years are \$12,668.40. There is a one-time set up fee of \$3,571.36 for the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the three-year contract with Maffei Strayer Furnishing, Inc. for High School and Junior High School gym bleacher inspections. Cost is \$2,900.00 per year for 3-years. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the three-year contract with Intertek PSI for water quality lead screening at a cost of \$1,425 per year for 3-years. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the three-year contract with Mongiovi & Son Enterprises, Inc. for sprinkler inspections. Yearly costs are as follows. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

2024-2025	\$2,250 (\$450/building)
2025-2026	\$2,500 (\$500/building)
2026-2027	\$2,700 (\$550/building)

MOTION #13

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the three-year contract with Renick Brothers for preventative maintenance, inspection schedule is attached. Yearly costs are as follows. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

2024-2025	\$12,480
2025-2026	\$12,480
2026-2027	\$13,240

MOTION #14

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the one-year contract with FIT Optimized Solutions of maintenance services at a cost of \$11,500. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Bethany PistoriusMOTION #15

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of the following grade 7-12 teachers for credit recovery to be compensated at a rate of pay of \$150.00 per student. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. English 7-12: Rosetta Dufalla
- b. Math 7-12: Raymon Smith
- c. Social Studies 7-12: Martin Vallecorsa
- d. General Science and Introduction to Scientific Methods 7-12: Michael Gill
- e. Biology: Betsy Lehman
- f. Chemistry: Bronwyn Korchnak
- g. Physics: Dean Nelson
- h. Physical Education 7-12: Lisa Morell
- i. BCIT 7-12: Stephanie Valentine

MOTION #16

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, accepted the resignation for retirement of Linda Cecela, Kindergarten teacher at Independence Elementary School, effective May 31, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsey Zupsic, accepted the resignation of Kelly Waibel, Junior Varsity Cheerleading sponsor, effective May 31, 2024. Mrs. Waibel has accepted the Head Varsity Cheerleading position. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #18

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the employment of Angela Markowitz, Health Suite Assistant at Margaret Ross Elementary School, effective June 12, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #19

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the employment of Stephen Slate, summer custodial staff, effective June 12, 2024, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the employment of Kandy Helms, summer custodial staff, effective June 12, 2024, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the employment of Matt Mottes, Varsity Head Football Coach, effective 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

Dr. Beltz reminded the audience that the DRAW Collective presentation would be on the District website.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

June 25, 2024, Regular Business Meeting will be in the Central Administration Board Room and virtually.

MOTION by Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary